

Our ref: C7

1st December 2020

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

Following the announcement that Lancashire is to be placed in Tier three, the Business Improvement District is calling on the government to ensure that our business community is a primary concern in the decision making process, to avoid further disastrous implications on livelihoods and employment that will be felt for years to come.

We understand, and wholeheartedly support, that safety of the public and the protection of public services, particularly the NHS, are key priorities.

However, we firmly believe, that a 'one size fits all' approach, especially in Lancashire's case, is disproportionate and will have long-lasting ramifications on a county that many would describe as the 'poor relation', often over-shadowed by Greater Manchester and the Liverpool City Region.

The rates of infection in much of the county, especially here in Preston, are falling significantly. Whilst, in some cases, infection rates remain just above England's national average, our community is continuing to play its part, and evidencing collective responsibility to reduce overall transmission, which is working.

The government has a difficult task at hand, but clear thinking and a pragmatic approach to Tiers and restrictions is critical.

As a result of the new Tier categories, we make the following pleas to government:

- **Lancashire is dealt with on a town/city basis (such is the case in Hampshire)**
- **We are given rolling updates on daily cases and an indication of our prospective Tier come the December 16th review**
- **That the December 16th review is brought forward to December 11th, which will allow the government a two-week period in which to make its decision**
- **As much support as is necessary to increase mass-testing capacity**
- **That clear and transparent decision making is shared when Tier decisions are made**

C/O North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce

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- **That the county is at the fore of the vaccination programme, given we have endured tighter restrictions than many places, and for longer**
- **A clear explanation of criteria we must meet to be moved to Tier 2**

We welcome business support schemes that the government has introduced, such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, but it must go further to ensure our business communities are in a position to return post-pandemic, particularly our leisure economy operators, who have had virtually no trade for the majority of the year.

The UK Leisure sector is worth around £120bn (source: KPMG), and it must be given every safe opportunity to trade and continue playing its part in supporting the UK's economy.

Communities across our region are committed to working together, and with the government, both at a national and regional level. We must be communicated with effectively, and not learn our fate through the mainstream media. Further, it must be made clear exactly what tests we need to meet to be placed in to a lower tier.

We urge the government to give our pleas full consideration without delay, and we look forward to an urgent response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Boydell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOHN BOYDELL

Chair – Preston Business Improvement District

cc: Sir Mark Hendrick MP, Ben Wallace MP, Mark Menzies MP